Month	Index Numbers	Annual price rise (%)
Sep-07	215.1	3.5
Oct-07	215.2	3.1
Nov-07	215.9	3.3
Dec-07	216.4	3.8
Jan-08	218.2	4.5
Feb-08 P	218.5	4.6
Mar-08 P	223.2	6.4

P: Provisional

Increase in the rate of inflation in March, 2008 has been due to an increase in prices of vegetables, cotton, oil seeds, iron ore, edible oils and steel related products.

New method to calculate inflation rate

†2378. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that technical group of Reserve Bank of India has recently suggested a new method to calculate the inflation rate;

(b) if so, the details of this new method alongwith its benefits;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision to implement this method; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Internal Technical Group of the Reserve Bank of India has submitted its Report on seasonal movement of inflation. It has not suggested any new method to calculate the inflation rate.

LIC's share in Insurance Business

†2379. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) share in insurance business is 90 to 95 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether LIC's share in market has decreased or increased at present; and

(d) the details of LIC's share in market from 2004-05 to till date, year-wise?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that its business share as on 31.3.2007 was 82.83% in policies and 74.18% in First Year Premium. The position of market share as on 29th February, 2008 of LIC is 73.05% in policies and 63.53% in First Year Premium.

(c) and (d) The share in market of LIC in First Year Premium had increased as on 31.3.2007 compared to 31.3.2006 from 71.44% to 74.18%. The market share of LIC in No. of Policies/Schemes and First Year Premium from 2004-05 is given as under:

Financial Year	Market Share of LIC (%)	
	No. of Policies/ Schemes	First Year Premium
2004-05	91.50	78.07
2005-06	89.08	71.44
2006-07	82.83	74.18
2007-29.2.08	73.05	63.53

Profits of LIC and Private Insurance Companies

†2380. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is facing problems in its traditional business with the arrival of private insurance companies; and

(b) if so, the details of total profit being earned by LIC and private insurance companies, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that it is a leading life insurance company and continues to be number one in life insurance business. The sale of LIC's conventional policies in much higher than total sales (both non-ULIP/Conventional and ULIP) of all private insurers put together.

(b) The details of the profit/loss by Life Insurance Companies including LIC for the last 3 years are given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.